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A New Fern.

(Plate CIV).

CHEILANTHES BRANDEGEI:—Caudice brevi adscendente; stipitibus cæspitosis fragilibus castaneis ad basim paleis brunneis lanceolatis vestitis; frondibus membranaceis deltoideo-ovatis 3-6 uncialibus bi-tripinnatis viridibus supra fere laevibus infra secus venulas exigue pilosis; pinnulis ovatis obtusis nunc amplis nunc minoribus crenatis vel majoribus crenato incis, basi plerumque rachi decurrenti-adnatis, venulis conspicuis dichotomis; involucris interruptis nunc sub-confluentibus viridibus margine scarioso parce ciliatis.

Magdalena Island and San Benito, in Lower California, collected in January, March and April, 1889, by Mr. Townsend Stith Brandegee of San Francisco.

This plant has in habit and the shape of the pinnæ and segments, some resemblance to *Pellæa Seemannii*, Hooker, and in giving Mr. Brandegee the names of the ferns he collected in his visit to Lower California I referred it with some doubt to that species. But the interrupted involucre are plainly those of *Cheilanthes*. The fern should be placed in § *Adiantopsis*, but there is no species to which it is very closely related.

The drawing by Mr. Arthur Hollick represents a plant gathered in January and a part of a frond gathered a few months later, when the pinnæ were more fully expanded.

D. C. EATON.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATE.

- Fig. 1.—A plant, natural size.
 2.—A pinna, enlarged.
 3.—A fruiting segment, enlarged.
 4.—Part of same, magnified.

A New Fern for North America.

ASPLENium FONTANUM (L.), BERNH. (*Asplenium Halleri*, R. Brown.) Many years ago the late J. M. McMinn, then residing at Williamsport, sent me a package of plants, and amongst them I found an unnamed fern, whose label states that it was collected by him "on a dry, rocky cliff, on Lycoming Creek, Lycoming County, Penn., July, 1869." At the time, I feared a foreigner had inadvertently been put in the place of something else, and hence gave it no further consideration, although, afterwards, the

collector assured a botanical friend that I was mistaken in my judgment. I now believe that the suspicion was wholly groundless, and this belief is confirmed by the discovery, in my herbarium, of another unnamed specimen of the very same fern, collected by Mrs. E. J. Spence, near Springfield, Ohio, and sent me by Dr. Beardslee, of Painesville, in 1871, as one of the plants of the State.

The specimens agree closely with *Asplenium Halleri*, of Europe, except that the mucronate-spinulose tips of the divisions of the pinnæ are somewhat longer.

Against its admission into our flora no good reason can be urged on the score of improbability, for its congeners and near allies, the little rock-ferns of the old world, *A. Trichomanes*, *A. viride* and *A. Ruta-muraria*, occur here also. Because of common resemblance, as well as its small size and rarity, it has, perhaps, been often overlooked. Sought for, with intent to find, it will no doubt yet be detected at other points in our territory, and a full supply obtained.

In this connection I may mention that *Asplenium Bradleyi*, D. C. Eaton, has recently been discovered in Lancaster County, Penn., by Mr. John K. Small—a remarkable extension of its range to the north and east. But, when it is known that the same enthusiastic young botanist has also discovered in the same region a considerable number of stations for its usual associates, *A. montanum* and *A. pinnatifidum*, it need awaken no surprise.

THOS. C. PORTER.

Botanical Notes.

Contributions from the National Herbarium. Under the above title an important serial publication has been begun by the Division of Botany of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is designed to afford a place for the presentation of the valuable results now being obtained by the botanists of the Department and others who may be especially employed to study the large collections made by the special agents now in the field in various parts of the country. Two numbers have already been printed. The first contains an account of Dr. Edward Palmer's collections in the Southwest by Dr. Vasey and Mr. Rose; the